

## Be Like Nehemiah

Nehemiah is unique. He is a man who does a great thing for God's people. What makes him unique is that he is no one special. He's not a king. He is not a prophet. He is a cupbearer for the king of Persia. He is a servant. He is an ordinary guy who does an extraordinary task for the Lord. That is what makes him so relatable.

Nehemiah is just like you and me. Unlike the prophets, God never came to him telling him what he needed to say or do. We often wonder if God will speak to us like He did with the prophets in the Old Testament. We think we will hear the smooth James Earl Jones like voice saying, "My child, thus you shall say or do..." In actuality, our experience is like that of Nehemiah. He sees a need and then asks God to bless his efforts. He then steps out in faith to do what needs to be done.

Nehemiah writes his book in hindsight. It is hard for us to know whether or not God is blessing his efforts. But after the fact he can see the mighty and amazing things God did for him. The king (Artaxerxes) granted my requests to me because the good hand of my God was upon me (Neh. 2:8).

The Lord granted him materials and many workers who shared in his vision. The Lord granted them safety from his opposition (more on that in a later installment).

God will not tell us what specifically needs to be done in our communities to help His kingdom flourish. We need to ask God to help us see opportunities and then when we see them we need to ask God to bless our efforts.

What are some ways we can serve? Are there areas where the church isn't flourishing? If you see them, be like Nehemiah and step out in faith to build up God's kingdom.

--Alex Swango